

CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION
Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2016
Townsend Building, Library Conference Room

Welcome: The Child Protection Accountability Committee (CPAC) Education Committee was called to order at 1:10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at the Townsend Building in Dover by Chairperson Susan Haberstroh.

Attendees: Susan Haberstroh (DOE), Rachael Neff (Family Court), Judge Kenneth Millman (Family Court), Brittany Willard (OCA), Jennifer Kline (CASA), Jessica Begley (OCA), Dr. Harvey Doppelt (PBH), Natasha Williams (Nemours), Kendall Massett (De Charter Schools Network), Joann Bruch (DFS), Eliza Hirst (OCA), Lisa Jumps (DFS), Tina Shockley (DOE)

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes, but a quorum was not present and therefore the minutes were not approved.

Presentation: A copy of the current draft of the Student Comprehensive Education Summary and Update was handed out and explained by Rachael Neff. She explained what the Courts are doing relative to education in foster care, and that there is specific information the Courts want to know about students in foster care. She reiterated this document was a result of the Retreat held. This is a document that could help homeless liaison and DFS staff communicate information to the Court and potentially others about the child via a one page printed document. A sample of the document is attached. It contains information regarding attendance, discipline, assessment data, etc. Rachael noted that Michele Marinucci took the lead on creating the report, with a great deal of information being retrieved from the Ed Insight Dashboard.

Eliza noted that we are trying to get some health data on the form which may be helpful to judges.

Judge Millman asked about absences. Chairperson Haberstroh noted that the definition of “absent” is determined by local school district, and varies. There is no common definition.

Training will occur around the form and the data being populated. There may also be a FAQ document created around the fields of the form which would provide more detail.

Joann Bruch questioned which address (foster care, parents address, etc.) is being used on the form on the file and cautioned there may be safety concerns regarding the listed address. Rachael noted that we can take that back to Michelle and if that field can be deleted if deemed not relevant.

Eliza was especially excited about Special Services listed on the form, as this gives vital information to the courts, which is usually just held at the school level. This form will also provide the opportunity to start tracking statistics for foster care students.

Eliza noted that in addition to EdInsight Dashboard, that iTracker and other programs may be used to obtain data for the form.

Judge Millman asked if it is possible to put a number of credits student has earned or number of credits earned to date. Chairperson Haberstroh noted that some of that may be in eSchool, but that this information is available from the local school. She noted that there is a regulation change regarding the issuance of diplomas relative to students in foster care. It states that they only need to meet the state requirement, not a local district credit requirement. We can ask the Data workgroup to consider this. Eliza noted that this is a cutting edge/best practice to improve education outcomes for foster care kids. The link to the regulation is: <http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/500/505.shtml#TopOfPage>.

Summary of 2016 Legislative Session – Chairperson Susan Haberstroh

Susan handed out Senate Bill 213w/SA 1 which is related to training and curriculum for personal body safety and child sexual abuse awareness and prevention training. There has been a commitment to talk about other trainings, including child abuse training. This legislation is considered “Erin’s Law” and it would be put in place for the 2017-2018 school year. There is a commitment from Sen. Henry and Sen. Lopez to continue discussions around this.

Specifically we have trainings for child abuse detection and reporting, gang, bullying, teen dating violence, and suicide prevention. This bill added another non-academic topic. There is a limited amount of time available for professional learning and trainings so a group has been convened to review those that are required to consider how best to incorporate into the schedule without being redundant.

Susan noted that nothing precludes all school personnel, including contractors, nutritionist/lunch ladies, bus drivers, etc. from accessing a PDMS account. However, for annual trainings there is a challenge. After six months accounts are deactivated, and after 1 year they are deleted. We will discuss how to overcome this going forward, though we do believe an online system would be better than pulling everyone in for a video session.

Another piece of legislation that CPAC is interested in is the school discipline and restorative justice practices. This legislation was a priority of the ACLU and although this did not move forward this past legislative session, there was a commitment to bring the relevant parties together to review how best to move forward.

Eliza added that she presented to the Chief School Officers Association (CSOA), regarding a proposed out of school suspension bill for grades K-3. None of the chiefs want to suspend kids, but there is a concern for a lack of resources. Additional trainings in trauma-related practices and support to teachers will hopefully decrease discipline issues. Support and resources are key.

Eliza noted there was legislation that will have CASA merge into OCA. She notes there are various tweaks that will need to be made, but that this means over time the child will always have attorney representation. CASA will act on behalf of the child, but in court the attorney will do the representation. It will be similar to North Carolina’s program. More details to come.

Next Steps for ESSA Workgroup – Chairperson Haberstroh handed out a document, “Foster Care & Education” Federal Update. She noted we received a lot of questions around foster care kids with the new ESSA. She explained that the new ESSA removes foster care kids from

McKinney Vento, and that there must be separate process for kids in foster care. Delaware is ahead of the game. Students in foster care are considered homeless, so they have best interest meetings and stay in home school of origin. Also, schools are transporting the kids, so transportation is already provided. For other states that may not be so. We are going to develop subcommittee to ensure CPAC gets all of our questions answered going forward. Susan contacted the Chief of CSOA and Kendall for Charter Schools, and she noted a list of individuals that want to be a part of that group.

The document Susan handed out provides a summary of the new ESSA requirements. Now per ESSA, foster care students should stay with their school of origins. DFS, DOE and school districts need to designate points of contact to ensure what is best for the child. Additionally, we will need to update our existing Memo of Understanding to align with ESSA.

Eliza explained in more detail the requirements of ESSA and also noted one change is to make charter schools more accessible to students in foster care.

Susan noted that this short-term workgroup will kick off in the next month.

Workgroup Reports:

MOU / Data Workgroup – Joann Bruch

Joann deferred to Brittany who handed out two documents:

- (1) SAT data 2013, 2014, 2105 and college enrollment data
- (2) DE Child Welfare Dashboard – Education Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

Brittany reviewed these documents and noted she is asking questions such as are they entering foster care before school or are students in school and then entering foster care. We are hoping to start tracking this information.

SAT Document

Question if SAT scores would vary from kids in foster care vs. students in other socio-economic groups. Brittany will report back at next meeting. Susan noted that if you are in 11th grade, in foster care or not, you are to take the SAT test, though the chart showed some disparity in this area. Brittany noted that they will look at trends over next few years as they become available.

Child Welfare Dashboard Document

There was discussion regarding discipline, graduation rates, Smarter Balance, expulsions, attendance, special education, etc., as to how they factor into the graphed statistics of children in foster care. There was a question about alternative placement – If a child is enrolled in school of origin and is then placed in an alternative school, how would that show up on the chart.

Susan suggested that some of the discipline issues may be added to the picked up on Student Comprehensive Education Summary

Collaboration Workgroup – Eliza Hirst

Eliza noted that she had originally proposed Education Decision Maker legislation, noting that 60% of foster care students may need to have someone designated as their education decision maker. This legislation would permit the court to have statutory authority to allow this designation to occur. However, through meetings with DOE and others, more discussion is needed. She is also currently looking at what other states are doing on this issue. More to come on this topic.

In general, she is working with various stakeholders regarding general initiatives to support kids in foster care.

Other Updates:

Transportation Letter to DOE

Eliza prepared a letter for DOE requesting that they collect data on transportation costs relative to kids in foster care. Susan will get it to the right person, but noted that DOE will track data and costs, so we can be better informed.

Compassionate Schools Learning Collaborative – Eliza Hirst

Eliza noted that she is developing trainings, specifically around trauma and impact on learning. She notes that is a lot of data that shows kids with trauma have a hard time doing well in school. 50% of kids in public schools have had some type of traumatic experience that will impact learning. She is currently working with schools to develop plans based on data to pull together some resources. These are totally free resources, thanks to a grant from Casey. Terry Lawler may come and give a presentation on this. Several schools are already working on trainings, strategic plans, and family engagement.

Eliza introduced Jessica Begley of OCA, who works on various trainings (PDMS, etc.) Jessica explained several items she is currently working on:

- 1. Now What? Training** – This is currently being developed. It provides trauma-incident related training to educators. It covers child the following:
 - a. Child welfare 101, understanding of the foster care experience and school instability issue.
 - b. Understanding Child Traumatic Stress – This covers ACEs, maltreatment and brain development, and impact of training on learning/behaviors/challenges
 - c. Anatomy of a compassionate School – This covers self-care (preparing educators to care), compassionate classrooms and trauma-informed Positive Behavioral Systems.

Nemours Information Sharing Group – Eliza Hirst

Eliza introduced Natasha Williams who is with Nemours. Eliza noted there are several different entities are doing foster care assessments, but info not shared. She is working with Nemours on ways to get this information shared. She is working with DOE, Nemours/portal, school nurses and DSCYF, but understands there may be challenges with FERPA, HIPPA concerns. She is considering creating an MOU. More information to come on this as it is available.

Western Sussex Summit: September 13, 2016

Eliza noted that Woodbridge School District is holding this summit once again. Keynote speech will be on poverty and impact on learning. There will be different workshops on child abuse training. Incidentally, Red Clay School District is planning to do a similar conference on the same day. Eliza will share the invitation to the group, and hopes they will come and learn.

Eliza also noted that at the end of September, a team will be going for a weeklong program at Georgetown University. The program will focus on ideas on how to build capacity and improve education outcomes for at risk students.

Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

Next Meeting Dates:

-September 14, 2016 – find location

-December 14, 2016 – find location

Joann will check to see if she has meeting space at her agency.

To Do:

-Brittany – Will report back if kids in foster care fair differently than other students in other socio-economic groups.

Eliza will send everyone the Western Sussex Summit event information.

Eliza will send out the save the date for September and December meeting, and will see if members have any ideas for training/presentations that the group may want to receive.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Susan Haberstroh at 2:50pm

Submitted by: Tina Shockley, 07.13.16